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Practicum

My Essential Belief Statement

In high school, I had several teachers whom inspired me to follow my passions and be myself. As a person whose beliefs and interests vary so greatly from my parents', I grew up with many frustrations, but these teachers gave me both guidance and support. These people are more than teachers to me, they are my mentors and friends. The wonderful educators I have had fostered my passions and walked me through college admissions in pursuit of my dreams. Without those teachers in my life, I would not be as confident or as primed for the future as I am.

I recall the crystallizing experience that fostered my love of english and, more specifically, writing. When I was in fifth grade I had to write a short story. My feedback included compliments on my "strong literary voice" and "talent for words". From that moment, I continued writing and putting extra effort into my language arts classes, and later english. Throughout my entire life that experience has been pivotal, until high school, when I had the aforementioned teachers to guide me.

As a verbal and interpersonal person I am affected by teachers who are not just vocal, but also expressive. When a teacher stands in front of me and lectures I lose focus, however, if that teacher allows vocal fluctuations and includes the class in discussion it captures my interest. With that, I could never be the teacher that stands at the front of the class and monotonically recites the textbook. Instead, I will want my classes to be conversation based with an emphasis on the development of each students' voice. In my opinion, the beauty of english, as a class, is learning to develop an opinion of which you can back with supporting evidence. The development of this voice is crucial to success in all fields.

Going into teaching I expect a rewarding, yet difficult, job. As a teacher, my curriculum will drive creativity as a workable force. On top of that, I look forward to having rewarding conversations and

debates with my students. In high school, one of my teachers shared a story that stuck with me. She had hired a man to plow her driveway and was discussing with him her duties as a teacher, upon which he snorted and inquired about how awful a teaching job must be, she replied, “Actually, on the average day I have more insightful conversations with my students than most adults.” This woman is another of the teachers that inspired me, this was one of the stories that solidified my desire to teach. However, there are also things that I fear, including: how to incorporate the advanced students with those struggling, while not hindering the learning of either student, dealing with students who refuse to cooperate with the class expectations, and making my students feel both comfortable and productive in the classroom.

In high school, I knew I wanted to teach, but until recently, I could only view my schooling as a student. Practicum is a chance for me to witness high school experiences and the craft of teaching from the perspective of a teacher. As a practicum student, I hope to further my transition from student to teacher. As a teacher, I hope I will be able to come up with unique, relevant, and interesting material with which I can educate my students. So far I have been lucky in having so many teachers I admire, because of which I know what type of teacher I aspire to be; now I just need to carve the path that will get me there.